

THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2015

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

For Saturday's meeting the Whangarei RC has attracted 183 acceptances across eleven races. The first race is at 10.40 am and the track is currently rated Dead 5. Three races were split due to excessive nominations.

The Manawatu RC will host their feature jumps day at Awapuni Racecourse. Four jumps races will headline the nine race card with a start time of 11.25 am. The \$50,000 Manawatu ITM Awapuni Hurdles will run at 1.05 pm and the \$50,000 L J Hooker Manawatu Steeplechase at 2.20 pm.

Early last Sunday morning, the Bob Baffert trained American Pharoah claimed the \$1,000,000 Belmont Stakes in New York. The valuable colt became the first horse in 37 years since Affirmed to win the prestigious American Triple Crown. The gruelling three leg series over five weeks is one of the toughest prizes in racing and twelve horses have fallen short on the final leg at Belmont Racecourse.

Apprentice Josh Oliver has been awarded the Hong Kong Jockey Club Apprentice Exchange scholarship in conjunction with New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing. Josh will be riding trackwork, trials and attending race meetings at Sha Tin and Happy Valley. The trip will last eleven days and will be a great experience for the young up and coming rider.

NZTR CHAIRMAN TO NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

NZTR Chairman, Matthew Goodson, announced today that he will not be seeking re-election for a further three-year term and will retire from the NZTR Board at the conclusion of the AGM on 6 November 2015.

Matthew Goodson was appointed to the restructured independent NZTR Board in 2011 and has held the position as Chairman from that time.

"I remain passionate and committed to the development of the NZ thoroughbred racing industry. However, the rapid recent growth of my business Salt Funds Management means it is simply not possible to commit to the time and focus that is required for another term."

"I would like to pay tribute to the extraordinary hard work of our CEO, Greg Purcell and all the team at NZTR who work tirelessly for the industry."

"Much progress has been made since the very difficult days of 2011. NZTR has consistently increased both aggregate and average prize-money, rebuilt industry reserves from a critically low level and is funding overdue infrastructure improvements in areas such as tracks and starting gates."

"However, much remains to be done, with competing countries having moved ahead sharply in recent years. Pleasingly, I believe that a convergence of previously disparate industry views is emerging that will allow the industry to grow at a faster rate than has been the case in the past."

"I am delighted that the National Government is now investigating the implementation of race-fields legislation and that the NZ Racing Board is coming to grips with its lack of scale and consequent high costs of trying to run a world class wagering system in a country with just 4.5 million people."

"I hold considerable optimism for the future and believe that the right people and ideas are in place to drive positive outcomes. I have been privileged to serve the NZ thoroughbred racing industry and look forward to pursuing my personal breeding and racing interests in the years ahead."

In early July the Members Council will call for nominations to fill the NZTR Board vacancy, following the Chairman's retirement in November.

BONECRUSHER DIES

It has been with great sadness that the Mitchell family (owners) and the Ritchie family (trainers) have announced the passing of the people's champion, Bonecrusher, in his thirty-third year.

He has been humanely euthanized after contracting laminitis (the same hoof disease that caused the death of the champion mare, Sunline).

Bonecrusher will forever be part of Australasian racing folk law. Not since the great Phar Lap, who was also a striking chestnut, has a horse captured the imagination of the Australasian racing public. Who will ever forget the "Race of the Century" and Bill Collin's famous call when Bonecrusher raced into equine immortality with his victory over Waverley Star in the 1986 Cox Plate.

He was the first thoroughbred to earn a million dollars in New Zealand, achieving that milestone at the age of three. He was ridden in all but one of his wins by Gary Stewart, a jockey who grew another leg, when he piloted the "Crusher".

What Bonecrusher did in his three and four-year-old seasons had never been done before in Australasia and is not likely to ever be repeated. As a three year old he won seven consecutive races, including the New Zealand Derby, Air New Zealand Stakes, Tancred Stakes and the AJC Derby. As a four year old he won five races including four Australian Group Ones being the Underwood Stakes, Caulfield Stakes, Cox Plate and Australian Cup.

In his career he won nine Group One races and a total of eighteen races in all winning from 880 metres to 2400 metres with all but three of his wins being Group or Listed races. His total earnings were almost NZD \$3,000,000.00.

Had he not been struck down by a severe virus in Japan in late 1986, which almost claimed his life, his record would surely have been incomparable. Although he was never quite the same he still continued to win Group Ones producing a mighty

effort to catch the Melbourne Cup winner and Northern Hemisphere Stallion At Talaq in the Australasian Cup and went on to defeat Horlicks in the 1988 Air New Zealand Stakes.

His final resting place will be at Ellerslie where a memorial will be erected in his honour.

2015 BAYER LECTURE SERIES – EQUINE PAIN

The NZ Equine Research Foundation has announced that this year's speaker will be Dr Sarah le Jeune, the chief of the Equine Integrative Sports Medicine Service at the University of California Davis.

The topic is "Equine Pain: Using conventional veterinary medicine, acupuncture & chiropractic for diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation".

The seminars will be held at:

Karaka	Saturday 18 July
Cambridge Thoroughbred Lodge	Sunday 19 July
Manfield Events Centre, Feilding	Wednesday 22 July
Canterbury Park Sales Facility	Saturday 25 July

Each Seminar commences with registration at 1 pm, and finishes at 5.30 pm.

Further details are available from www.nzerf@xtra.co.nz

LICENCE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS

The Licence Renewal Application process for ALL licence-holders for the 2015/16 season is now well underway. Licence-holders are encouraged to renew on-line where possible. To date over 700 licence holders have renewed in this manner.

Licence renewal applications have been posted out earlier this week to licence holders who had not renewed by Monday of this week.

If you have any questions concerning your licence renewal application, please contact the Licensing Department at NZTR on 04 576 6279 or licensing@nstracing.co.nz

COLOURS RENEWALS 2015-2020

Please note the five year colours registration cycle finishes on 31 July 2015. Renewals for the next five year period will be able to be completed on-line. Renewal details will be emailed out to colours holders who have active email addresses tomorrow, Friday 12 June. Those without email addresses will be sent a renewal form through the post shortly.

Owners are reminded that should they not wish to re-register their colours at this time then they will expire and become available for others to register from 1 September 2015.

New colours which have been previously registered with NZTR from 1 January 2015 will not incur another fee.

TURNOVER INFORMATION

NZ Thoroughbred Summary FY15	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/ (%)
Meetings	295	304	(9)	(2.96%)
Races	2,503	2,538	(35)	(1.38%)
Total Starts	26,057	26,434	(377)	(1.43%)
Avg Field Size	10.410	10.415	(0.00)	(0.05%)
Number of races less than 8 starters	407	413	(6)	(1.45%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	358,167,774	346,595,794	+11,571,980	+3.34%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	31,314,347	32,802,440	(1,488,094)	(4.54%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	389,482,121	379,398,235	+10,083,886	+2.66%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	276,220,807	289,319,451	(13,098,644)	(4.53%)
Subtotal FOB Turnover	113,259,010	90,078,768	+23,180,242	+25.73%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	155,606	149,487	+6,119	+4.09%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	14,947	14,353	+595	+4.14%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	1,475,763,588	1,323,797,141	+151,966,447	+11.48%
Subtotal NZ Racing Turnover	724,376,859	715,261,426	+9,115,433	+1.27%
Subtotal Imported Racing Turnover	751,386,729	608,535,715	+142,851,014	+23.47%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	344,268,590	243,364,975	+100,903,615	+41.46%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,820,032,178	1,567,162,116	+252,870,062	+16.14%

NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 31 May)	292,359,820	273,573,733	+18,786,087	+6.87%
Total Races (to 31 May)	2,440	2,481	(41)	(1.65%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	119,820	110,268	+9,552	+8.66%

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14
1-Jun	Auckland	79,836	107,919	802,184	951,517	318,340	302,099	8	10	82	100
1-Jun	Wairarapa	41,676	43,498	655,908	707,073	234,124	208,246	8	8	94	99
3-Jun	Matamata	35,882	32,090	649,342	637,257	201,726	209,075	8	8	93	107
4-Jun	Taranaki	23,745	36,284	445,566	550,432	191,387	170,515	7	7	61	77
5-Jun	Canterbury	18,799	-	406,190	-	148,892	-	7	-	68	-
6-Jun	Waikato	92,910	77,057	1,348,195	1,266,029	512,958	429,235	10	8	127	110
6-Jun	Wellington	62,265	73,973	790,642	677,459	290,929	191,186	8	8	82	61
7-Jun	Waimate@Oamaru	18,383	28,758	422,045	488,417	182,317	183,082	7	10	64	82

Meeting details:

- Auckland RC Queen's Birthday Monday meeting ran 8 races this season, 10 races last season.
- Canterbury Racing Friday equivalent was abandoned in FY14 due to wet weather in the lead up to the meeting; 7 races run in FY15.
- Waikato RC Saturday meeting ran 10 races this season, 8 last season.
- Waimate RC Sunday meeting at Oamaru ran 7 races in FY15, 10 in FY14.

Turnover summary notes:

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is up 2.7% year to date.
- 9 less meetings and 35 less races have been run than to the same date last season.
- Turnover per race is up 4.1%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 377, 1.4 % less.
- Average field size is 10.410 in FY15, down slightly from 10.415 (-0.05%) in FY14.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 6 lower than the season prior (407 v 413).
- The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 4.5%) has been offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 25.7%).
- Export turnover (\$NZ) is up 8.7% per race to 31 May.

Note: Turnovers are provided by the NZRB from various reports. On-course is totalisator turnover on the meeting and on intertrack meetings, plus FOB racing turnover on the meeting only (FOB intertrack is not provided from these reports at present). On-course self service turnover is also not currently included. Total NZRB racing turnover is all racing bet on through the NZRB. NZ racing turnover is NZ thoroughbred, harness and greyhound turnovers combined; imported racing turnover is all imported thoroughbred, harness and greyhound turnover. Combined with sports, the racing turnover provides the total NZRB turnover. NZ thoroughbred export turnovers are stated in \$NZ, generally up to a week or two behind other turnover numbers.

